

The Village of Walton Hills

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date: April 14, 2015

Time: 6:01 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Council Chambers

Mayor Hurst called the meeting to order. The roll call was taken by Mrs. Iaconis. Present: Councilpersons Denny Linville, Mary Brenner-Miller, Paul Rich, Gloria Terlosky, and Brian Spitznagel. Administration present: Katie Iaconis, Assistant Fiscal Officer; Blair Melling, Law Solicitor (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)

Action Taken and/or Recommendations:

Persons Having Business Before Council – None

Council Comments – Mayor Hurst explained that he provided Council with reports from the department directors as well as a memo acknowledging receipt of \$15,000 from Brock Millstein to help with the beautification on the corner of Western Reserve Battery. He provided an update on baseball signups and discussed rental of the ball fields. Councilman Linville reported that the detective was provided with a used car. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller read into record the Recreation Department update as of April 13th. After Councilman Rich's inquiry, Mayor Hurst discussed a situation involving a sink hole in the right of way on Alexander Road. Councilwoman Terlosky commented on the success of the first "Muffins with the Mayor." Councilman Spitznagel gave an update on the Cleveland Indians Grant.

Allowing Chickens to be Kept on Village Lots (Potential Revision of C.O. 1266.07) – Holly Schroeter (7243 Dunham Road) stated that she did not see any negatives to allowing chickens in the Village. Tim Wadle (7677 Dunham Road) discussed the benefits of allowing chickens in the Village and stressed that the incidents of salmonella have not gone up with the increase of chickens around Cuyahoga County. He indicated that there are no human cases of bird flu and predators will not increase because there are chickens. Chuck Szkalak (18748 Alexander Road) recommended that Council give residents, with appropriate rules, the opportunity to raise chickens and eggs for their own consumption. Dan Schroeter (7243 Dunham Road) indicated that allowing chickens would help attract new residents as long as it is done according to proper guidelines. Henry Dzikowski (7135 Dunham Road) stressed if he can have horses he would like to have chickens. Mike Malafa (7257 Dunham Road) stated that he has a better chance of getting salmonella from handling boxes of chicken parts as opposed to raising chickens on his own property. Bethany Majeski (7257 Dunham Road) discussed the benefits and the negative misconceptions of allowing chickens. Councilmen Kolograf and Spitznagel discussed the issue of the pressure to allow other farm animals if chickens are permitted. Mr. Melling stressed that if the Village decides to allow chickens and no other farm animals, there must be ardent discussion as to why those limitations were put in place. Mayor Hurst indicated that he will place this issue on the next C.O.W. meeting agenda in May.

Ordinance No. 2013-20 – Size Limitation for Accessory Buildings (Tabled 2/17/15) and Ordinance No. 2013-21 – Attached Garage Size/Must Share Common Wall with Dwelling (Tabled 2/17/15) – Mayor Hurst explained that these items appear on the agenda in order to fall off the table, and this will be the last time they appear unless requested by Council. He noted that Mr. Melling will meet with the Board of Zoning Appeals in May to address their concerns about these issues.

Resolution Authorizing the Village to Apply for a Nature Works Grant for T.G. Young Park – Mayor Hurst indicated that this legislation verifies that the Village has the finances to fund 25% of the project being pursued. He explained that no expenditure will be approved until the grant has been awarded.

Discussion on Lawn Decorations – Mayor Hurst explained that legislation from other communities is being reviewed. He noted that this issue is being addressed as both a nuisance and a safety issue.

Discussion on Landscaping Proposals – Mayor Hurst announced that he received \$15,000 from Brock Millstein, the owner of the Northfield Park racetrack, for beautification of corner of Alexander Road and Route 8 (Western Reserve Battery). He noted that he would like this project to start next week and it should cost the Village between \$15,000 and \$17,000. Regarding the beautification, Councilman Spitznagel stressed that the center of the Village should be the focal point and beautification efforts for every other part of Village should be scaled down in size. The unsightly appearance of the bridge on Alexander Road by the Ford Plant was discussed. Mayor Hurst discussed plans for displaying United States and Ohio flags and installing cross buck fencing at the gateways. He noted that NPK is investing \$3.5 million in the Village and he will meet with the Bedford School Board to discuss tax abatement.

Councilwoman Brenner-Miller stressed that chickens are allowed in Macedonia, which is more urban with smaller properties; she noted that she would obtain their legislation. Dan Schroeter (7243 Dunham Road) expressed his approval of the street signs, stressed the Village must move forward, and suggested placing flower planters on the bridges. Mayor Hurst responded that he is anticipating building brackets for the bridge by Tinker's Creek and the one on Dunham Road toward Sagamore Road. He noted flags will be displayed from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Councilman Kolograf pointed out that flags can be used to advertise community events.

Update on Enterprise Zone Agreement – Mrs. Iaconis provided an update on the Enterprise Zone Agreement with Arhaus. She noted that the agreement expires at the end of 2015.

Other Business – Mayor Hurst read a statement into record regarding the prescribed fire for the Terra Vista area in Valley View. He indicated that affected residents will be notified by mail. Councilman Spitznagel stressed that his focus regarding the chicken issue is designing legislation to limit as much as possible. Mayor Hurst indicated that the only legislation on the next Council meeting agenda will be for the Nature Works Grant.

Councilman Linville motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Brenner-Miller and six ayes approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Katie Iaconis, Assistant Fiscal Officer